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Letter dated 13 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, of 9 July 1993 on the decision of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of Russia by which the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol was proclaimed as belonging to Russia.

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Victor H. BATIOUK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

Annex

Statement issued on 9 July 1993 by the President of Ukraine on the decision of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of Russia

It has become known that on 9 July 1993 the Supreme Soviet of Russia approved a decision by which the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol was proclaimed as belonging to Russia. The decision, inter alia, claims "the Russian status" of the city of Sevastopol and alleges that it is "the main base of the single Black Sea Fleet".

The approved decision can be qualified only as a flagrant violation of the universally recognized norms and principles of international law. In particular it is an open interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine, an infringement of its territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders. This decision bluntly violates the international obligations resulting from Russia's membership in the United Nations, its participation in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and bilateral Ukrainian-Russian agreements, particularly the Ukrainian-Russian Treaty of 19 November 1990 which was ratified by the Russian Parliament with the same composition.

The resolution of Russia's Supreme Soviet is a continuation of blunt anti-Ukrainian policy, implemented lately by Russia's Parliament, the destructive character of which has been often noted by Ukraine. We are deeply astonished by the readiness of some Russian legislators for maximum complication and aggravation of Ukrainian-Russian relations, in the evolution of which some positive tendencies have emerged lately, especially after the meeting of the Presidents and Prime Ministers of the two States. We do not equate this decision by the Russian Parliament with the will of the Russian people and we hope that Russians who stand for peace and friendly relations with Ukraine do not support the enactment of their Parliament. By this decision Russia's Supreme Soviet tries to provoke conflict in the territory of Crimea, to insert tension and strife into relations between Ukraine and Russia.

Neglect of the universally recognized norms and principles of international law, the attempts of certain political forces in Russia, which cannot give up recurrences of imperial thinking in policy towards Ukraine and other countries - former republics of the USSR - to bring seeds of enmity among nations, to violate peace and stability in the region, must be unequivocally cordemned by the international community. There should be no place for the "law of the jungle" in today's international relations.

Ukraine, which has proclaimed its wish to live in peace, accord and mutual respect with all countries of the world, first and foremost with its neighbours, resolutely rebuffs any territorial claims and appeals to the world community, the United Nations Security Council, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and other influential international organizations to use all their authority to stop Russian legislators from wicked decisions, which may lead to the abyss not only brotherly nations, but also the peace and security of the entire world.

Ukraine officially declares that the decision unilaterally approved by the Russian Parliament bears no legal consequences for Ukraine. I hope that the Supreme Soviet of Russia will cancel this illegal enactment.

I believe that despite the decision, which has no legal foundation, Ukrainian-Russian relations will further develop in the interests of both peoples.

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